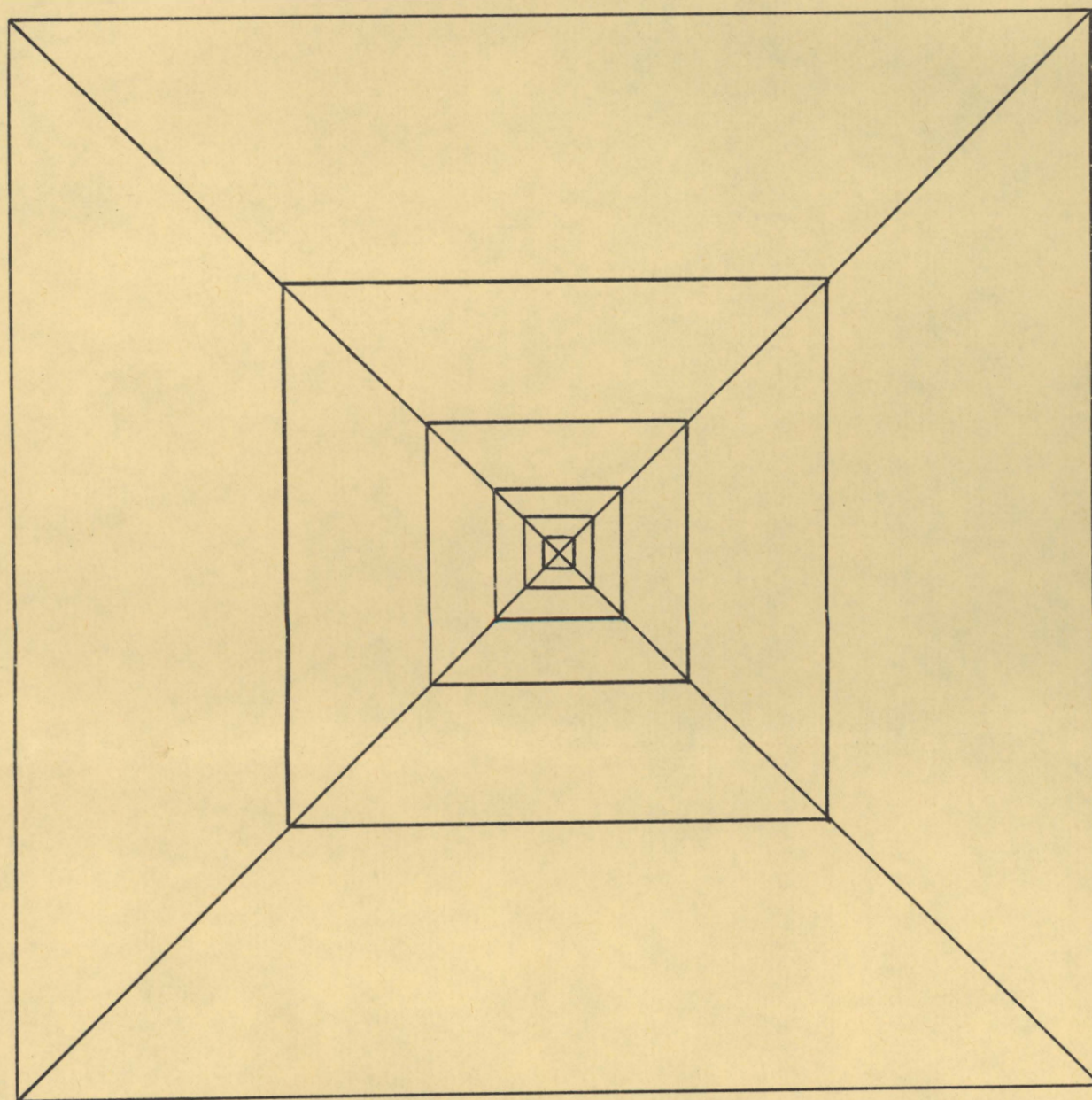


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Editorial.

by H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield.

Over the last ten years or so, Australian UFO research groups have seen a gradual move from large static societies with surrounding trappings towards research organisations with a streamlined structure. UFO Research (SA) was the first established organisation to function in this way, having initiated the system in 1974. With time, other organisations followed their style, and today, out of the larger organisations only, UFOR (QLD) and VUFORS now operate outside this system.

There has recently been some comment circulating amongst various people around the country as to whether this "investigation team" approach is working successfully. We have sought people's views on this issue over the last twelve months and the consensus opinion is that indeed it is the best suited to our situation of part-time, volunteer organisations.

Opinions also vary on the question of a cause for the phenomena, the direction in which we should be collectively going and of course how to go about it.

However, most people agree that investigation and research should be an ongoing concern, with very few committing themselves to a definite stand on the cause of the phenomena, considering that there are many avenues to be pursued before all the evidence is in.

Of surprise to some, especially sceptics who see UFO groups as "little green men" fanatics, would be the fact that most individual Australian researchers and UFO organisations do not have a concrete stand on a cause. To put it another way the majority do not say that the answer is the "extra-terrestrial hypothesis", or "inter-dimensional" or "time-travel", but that an open mind needs to evaluate all the available evidence.

For this reason, and in order to tread a careful line between the lunatic fringe and the professional scientist we should not, nay must not make any public statements which inform people we have closed our minds and decided, based on insufficient evidence.

ACUFOS itself does not make any concrete statements as to the cause of the phenomena as it respects the thoughts of the majority of its consultants and member organisations.

There are UFO organisations within Australia who have decided as to the cause of the phenomena and promote their views with a public voice. This is their democratic right of freedom of choice. However, once having done this, there is no reason for their lack of active co-operation with those who have not yet so arrived at a conclusion. It would appear that this could only be due to a fear that their conclusion rests on sandy ground and that public debate may well reveal them wrong.

We would like to again, in public (as we have previously done in private communications) ask that these organisations reconsider their unilateral un co-operativeness, and that if they have concrete evidence that UFOs are extra-terrestrial or otherwise that they produce it or admit they are incorrect and rejoin the rest of us in a co-operative spirit

Why are most humanoids Small?

by D. A. J. Seargent.

The answer to this question will, of course, depend upon just what humanoids ARE - which will depend upon the answer to another question viz. "What are UFOs?"

The two most popular answers at the moment are the ETI and the parapsychical hypotheses (The most popular form of the latter is probably the parapsychical projection hypothesis or PP, and this will be the one discussed here).

On the ETI, small beings probably imply that the home planet is rather more massive than the earth. Beings from such a planet must find the gravity of earth unnaturally weak (just as our astronauts found the gravity of the moon to be weak) and they will be able to perform jumping feats beyond anything they could accomplish at home. Thus, ease of movement will be one of their most memorable experiences of earth.

On the other hand, lower gravity means thinner atmosphere and it is doubtful if they would be able to breathe our air without special equipment. Probably they would need space-suits as well, as low pressure would quickly lead to rupture of blood vessels etc.

If the PP is the correct hypothesis, the answer to our question may lie in a curious fact pointed out by Lethbridge in his book GHOST AND GHOUL viz. that psychics tend to see their "visions" as diminutive "pictures" and, if these are projected onto the world as quasi-material objects, such objects would naturally be small. Lethbridge used this to explain the belief that "fairies" are small - a myth which seems common to all cultures. (That "fairies" are simply UFO-nauts of a former age is a popular belief among followers of the PP).

Incidentally, the UFO dwarfs generally seem to be a hostile lot - very different from the (not so common) larger UFO beings. Could this be (assuming the PP) a result of our experience with animals - viz. small animals are seen as being more pugnacious than large ones? In other words, if we project images of small beings into the world, may we not also project the right personality befitting these small beings?

Mental Communications and Psychological Disturbance
(Part 2 - continued from last issue)

by Mark Moravec

Case 4: Mrs. D. claims to have had five UFO sightings. In the first sighting, the reporter got up from bed when she heard neighbourhoody dogs barking. She heard a soft, low pitched humming sound, looked outside and saw a large silvery-white, cigar-shaped object facing three smaller cigar-shaped objects, all at a high altitude. Bluish-silver "sparks" emanated from one cigar while the

largest cigar appeared to "chudder". The witness woke her young grand-daughter who, upon being shown the lights in the sky, became frightened and ran into another room. The objects were viewed for over an hour and then the witness tried to get some sleep. The following afternoon, the witnesses allegedly became ill, vomited and had recurring headaches. Mrs. D. later discussed the sighting with her relatives. Strangely, her daughter-in-law was also allegedly to experience the same physiological symptoms!

The second sighting occurred one night at 4 am. An orange-coloured "flying saucer" with black sections or "windows" was seen for 20 minutes by Mrs. D. and her daughter-in-law (the latter allegedly becoming ill as detailed above). After the object left, Mrs. D. felt "as if I had lost a friend". In the third sighting, Mrs. D. saw a vague, dark shape over the telegraph wires at 1.30 am. In the fourth sighting, she saw a white, dinner-plate shaped object in motion for 15 minutes while a passenger in a car. The object disappeared from view before anyone else could witness it. Mrs. D.'s fifth sighting was of a triangular object, multi-coloured, which appeared to move towards a plane.

Apart from these sightings, Mrs. D. has experienced hallucinations of "letters" in the sky. Once, she was standing at a bus stop and saw brown-coloured "initials" ("S" and "P") which appeared to come out of a cloud. No one at the bus stop gave any indication of having seen the same thing. Another time, Mrs. D. was travelling in a car with her family when she again saw some letters in the sky. However, the others in the car ridiculed her and claimed there was nothing to be seen. The reporter also claims to have had two visions of Christ in a neighbourhood church. The apparitional figure, which appeared to carry a goblet, walked up to her, said "drink this for my sake", and then glided away and disappeared. Mrs. D. had tears running down her face during these experiences. She was the only witness to these visions. Several times Mrs. D. has received mental communications whilst engaged in routine activities such as doing the washing or watching television. In one incident, a male "voice" stated: "We are peaceful... Seek and you will find. You have not lived on our machines but have visited ten minutes as conditions were unsuitable. You contacted a 'mothalin' from a white cloud. Many people from 'Asperio' are from Japan; England a few; and Australia 125. While on earth we seek, we have ways of communicating. A message will be transcended very shortly. 25 men will be transported shortly. We think this man transports. Confide in no one except self-seeing humans. In contact with human who speaks foreign tongue. Do not touch. Evade is left eyes. We use eyes for transmission. Left hand straight with thumb up. Cuticle of utmost importance. Keep eyes clean. Protect colours: green, amber, blue good."

The messages appear to consist of images and words not necessarily connected in logical sequence, and the overall tone of the passages is emotionless and "mechanical". The above message was accompanied by vision of trees, large red flowers, a building and a black shiny pond all in the one scene. Mrs. D. is not sure whether the messages come to her in a psychic way from UFO intelligences or from her own mind. I would suggest the latter. The "communicators" provide a comfort and reassurance which Mrs. D. fails to find in ordinary living. By receiving these messages she has become a focus of attention and gained the feeling of being an important person. The reporter claims to have a psychic background as a medium and has allegedly accomplished feats of levitation, healing by prayer, the sending of telepathic messages and the production of ectoplasm. Several times she has suddenly started speaking phrases in a "language" that no one has been able to identify (so-called "speaking in tongues"). She believes her home has become infested with mice, cockroaches, tarantulas, etc. A woman told her that it was a test by God.

How do we evaluate these bizarre claims? On initial examination, Mrs. D.'s UFO sightings appear to be fairly detailed and specific. However, at least some sightings may be misidentifications of planetary objects (for example, the light which was viewed for over an hour) and subjective exaggerations of ambiguous stimuli (the "dark shape" over the telegraph lines). The claimed

physiological effects may have been induced by fear rather than any strange UFO influence. It is also possible that the single witness sightings were hallucinatory - especially since Mrs. D. has experienced a variety of other hallucinations. The reporter's observations of "letters" in the sky and visions of Christ are clearly hallucinatory since other people present failed to observe anything unusual. Likewise, her mental communications are most likely auditory hallucinations incorporating her subconscious fears and ideas from UFO and psychic lore. She appears to hold the delusional belief that her house has been purposely infested with bugs and pests. Her instances of loose associations (the mental messages) and of fragmented/incoherent speech (the "speaking in tongues") are typical of the disturbances in thought which can be found in psychoses.

There are a number of factors which appear to have contributed to the reporter's psychological disturbance. She is aged 65, lives alone and is very isolated. Her poetry reveals an intense loneliness. She readily admits that life is going too slow for her and that she is not involved enough. She is divorced and immigrated to Australia some 16 years ago. Apparently a number of years ago, Mrs. D. underwent a period of amnesia following the death of a very close friend. There is evidence of marked conflict and tension between herself and some members of her family. Her mystical background has provided her with ample raw material for delusions.

From the above case studies, we can draw out a number of common factors which are "warning signs" that may point to a psychologically disturbed individual. Firstly, if we look at the actual EXPERIENCES reported, the following experiences are consistent with an evaluation of psychological disturbance:

- *delusions (particularly paranoid beliefs)
- * hallucinations (such as "voices" and unpleasant smells)
- *distorted self image (body "contaminated"; body falling apart)
- * bizarre, or illogical associations in thought and speech
- *autism (retreat from reality into a fantasy world)
- *vagueness and low weight of UFO reports
- *single witness status of experiences

Secondly, there are a number of witness background factors which can contribute to a disturbed psychological state:

- *personal crises (such as divorce or death)
- *isolation
- *new settler (immigrant)
- *old age
- *history of nervous/mental breakdowns
- *difficulty in personal relationships
- *unstable work history
- *well read in UFO and psychic lore

Current convention divides psychological disturbances into two major categories: psychoses and neuroses. Neuroses can involve:

- (1) worry, tension and distractability - indicants of excessive fear
- (2) excessive forgetting, obsessive thoughts and compulsive rituals - self-defeating attempts to cope with fear situations
- (3) depression and fatigue - psychological residuals of prolonged tension

Psychoses can feature:

- (1) hallucinations - disturbances in perceiving reality
- (2) delusions - disturbances in interpreting reality
- (3) loose associations, fragmented and incoherent speech - disturbances of thought
- (4) prolonged melancholy or elation - disturbances of mood
- (5) isolation and withdrawal from others - disturbances in personal interaction.

(Buss, 1966, p.31)

It has been said that the neurotic dreams in an unreal way about life whereas the psychotic lives life in an unreal dream. Using the above classification system, the people discussed in the case studies would be considered to be displaying psychotic behaviour.

Each of these two major categories can be further subdivided. Paranoid

schizophrenia (featuring paranoid delusions) is considered to be a psychosis. It has to be stressed that these theoretical distinctions are inexact and controversial. There can, in fact, be considerable overlap in behaviours between categories. Also, a "breakdown" and the accompanying behaviour changes may only be temporary. Another point requiring emphasis is that we are not dealing with an organic "illness". There is no mysterious "insanity virus" floating about. On the basis of current psychological knowledge, psychoses can most reasonably be viewed as the result of many interacting factors - cultural, interpersonal, learning, biological and cognitive. That person, who may be biologically or developmentally predisposed to respond in a schizophrenic way, may have a breakdown if he experiences sufficiently great environmental stresses or crises. Further research is required to determine the relative influences of all these factors.

The line between "normal" and "abnormal" behaviour can be extremely fine depending on the situation or the cultural context. Is the man who kneels down next to his bed and starts talking to himself mad, or is he praying? A witness does not have to be psychologically disturbed to be able to put an exotic interpretation on his experiences. For instance, people who are religiously-inclined can find great significance in their UFO experiences:

Case 5: Mr. E. was driving home when he saw a very bright, silver-white, cigar-shaped object or light source, stationary in the sky. No sound was detected and the object was seen for about 30 seconds. The reporter also felt that definite "feelings" had been "transmitted" from the object: "It wasn't aggressive, and it wasn't afraid - it was just sitting there as if it were a part of the sky, a part of the scheme of things, a part of nature, and it was such a natural part of the sky, that other people probably would not have noticed it. It seemed to know how to be a part of the Universe, and wasn't concerned what we think of it... It was an experience which I think few people would associate with as it was something which happened to me alone (seemingly only a very short incident, but has had a fairly great impact on my understanding of man's existence on earth and his relationship with God)." Soon after the sighting, Mr. E. became suddenly aware of what an "extraordinary beautiful clear day it was". He said that the "sky was the bluest he had ever seen before" and felt sure that these very strong feelings and the beauty of the day were relevant. "Without a doubt this day was extremely 'spiritual'."

In this case, the sighting stimulus could easily have been a distant balloon or aircraft. The witness has strong religious convictions and this led to a religious interpretation being placed upon a mundane event. It was a way of confirming his own desire to believe in "God", and of being a privileged witness to one of "his" manifestations.

The existence of UFO-related "mental communication" cases raises several issues. One issue is - what comes first: the psychosis or the UFO experience? I have argued in the case studies presented, that personal difficulties have contributed to a psychological disturbance and that the individual has merely incorporated UFO and psychic lore in his delusions. An alternative viewpoint is that a traumatic UFO experience can trigger off a psychotic reaction in the individual. For this latter hypothesis to have any support, I would suggest that at least three conditions are necessary:

- (a) the witness has experienced a traumatic UFO experience
- (b) this UFO experience has not been overshadowed by personal crises, and
- (c) the disturbed psychological state (and accompanying behaviour) clearly began AFTER the UFO experience.

None of the cases which I have examined satisfy these criteria.

Are there any cases of mental communication which cannot be explained as simply due to a psychological disturbance? Further research is required to give a definitive answer to this question. However there do exist a number of provocative cases which are difficult to dismiss. In the Frankston, Victoria case of 1972 (Magee 1972), Mrs. Puddy had several detailed encounters with UFOs, mental communication contacts and apparition experiences. However, this was only a single witness case. The 1968 French case of Dr. "X" (Michel 1969) is one of the most extensively documented cases of psiufological phenomena on

record. In this case, the central witness received mental communications and experienced a wide variety of paranormal events subsequent to a detailed UFO observation. Even in the continuing case of Dr. Andrija Puharich (Holroyd 1979), whilst the communications received via mediums were most probably expressions of subconscious fantasies, some apparently genuine paranormal events (poltergeist-like effects and telepathy) did take place. In these cases, whilst the mental communications can still be interpreted as delusional, these subjective experiences may have been triggered off by a genuine UFO experience. Thus the "mixture hypothesis" sees these cases to be a combination of objective, inexplicable UFO/paranormal events and subjective psychological delusions.

What are the implications of mental communication cases? At the most, they imply that some human beings can communicate directly with alien intelligences, and that such communications may potentially alter the course of human history. At the least, they imply that some people can successfully incorporate the UFO mythology into a complex, if delusional, belief system. It has been the aim of this paper to show that at least some mental communication cases can be explained as being the delusions of psychologically disturbed individuals. Other, more evidential cases appear to involve psychotic delusions triggered off by traumatic, but objectively real, UFO events.

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The Bermuda Triangle: A Statistical Analysis with reference to possible UFO correlations.

by John Prytz.

The twin mysteries attributed to the Bermuda Triangle and UFO phenomena have in recent years captured the public's attention. It wasn't long before an attempt was made to "solve" some of the Bermuda Triangle disappearances by attributing those vanishing acts within the Bermuda Triangle to UFOs, presumably piloted by extraterrestrials, for unknown (but probably less than friendly) purposes. The Bermuda Triangle/UFO connection was strongly hinted at in the popular movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND for example.

To the best of the author's knowledge, the Bermuda Triangle/UFO connection has never rested on any sort of evidence - only inference of a highly questionable nature. And the author makes no claims about having any such hard evidence. However, the claims put forth by some as to the reality of the Bermuda Triangle/UFO relationship can be put to a sort of quasi-examination by examining the statistical patterns of the two phenomena. The UFO analysis has been done so often that I didn't repeat it but merely extracted the data from Allan Hendry's book THE UFO HANDBOOK. Similar sorts of data for the Bermuda Triangle however weren't easily available. Thus, I took the raw case history data as supplied by Alan Landsburg in his volume SECRETS OF THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, followed his sub-divisions as to type of case (sailing ship, military aircraft etc.), and arranged them by year and by month. The result is contained respectively in Tables One and Two.

Two notes in order first. 1) With respect to the total number of cases, when added up by year, the number is 144, whereas by month the total is 134. This is because the time of month wasn't supplied (or known) by Alan Landsburg in 10 cases. 2) I only looked at case histories, not the number of individual ships/aircraft that may have been involved in each case. Thus for example, when considering the now famous case history of "flight 19" in 1945, this was counted as one case for year 1945, even though 5 military aircraft vanished in the initial incident.

So how does the arrangement of Bermuda Triangle case studies into yearly and monthly listings help or hinder the "but what else can it be" crowd who attribute UFOs the crime of celestial kidnapping within the Bermuda Triangle?

From the yearly and monthly arrangement of Bermuda Triangle case studies, it is obvious that there is not an even distribution. For example, 1921 was a bad year for motorized vessels; as is the month of March! But are the bunchings significant? In order to ask that question, it is a good idea to obtain the random average first, then compare the actual cases with the random average. Thus, the random averages, by individual categories (sailing ships, military aircraft etc.) were compiled. The basic methodology was to take the number of cases and divide into that figure the number of elapsed years (up to and including 1976, the final year considered) since the first reported case for that category. This was done for three periods of time, which were: 1) the total time period from the earliest case (1800-sailing ships; 1910-motorized vessels etc.) through and including 1976; 2) the pre-UFO period only (as in 1, but through and including 1946); and 3) the post-UFO period, 1947 through 1976. Because different categories started at different times (you couldn't compile the random average of military aircraft by going back to 1800 as you could for sailing ships), it was not possible to arrive at a random average for the entire Bermuda Triangle phenomena, regarding "cases per year". It could only be done on a category by category basis. (See Table 1).

However, the monthly random averages (which were done in total and not further subdivided into pre- and post- UFO periods) could be obtained for not only the individual categories, but for the entire phenomena as a whole by dividing by 12. (See Table 2.)

Once random averages were worked out, it was simple to compare the actual data (whether for a specific year or a specific month) with what was to be expected if the entire Bermuda Triangle phenomena were strictly random. One only had to decide the dividing line between significant increases above and beyond the norm.

As the yearly spread was much greater (up to 177 years in the case of sailing ships) than the monthly spread, for roughly the same number of case studies (144 vs 134), a higher degree of significance/non-significance factoring was given to the yearly analysis than to the monthly analysis. I figured that on a year by year analysis, any year which exceeded the random average by a factor of five (500%), was significant. I was even harsher than that for I always rounded up to the next higher number and added one to boot! Thus for example, the random average overall for sailing ships is 0.30 cases per year. Five times that figure is 1.5, which is 2 when rounded up to the next highest number, and 3 when one is added. Thus, I looked for values of 3 or more, per year, in the "sailing ships" category. Years 1909 and 1969 turned out thus to be "significant" for sailing ships vanishing in the Bermuda Triangle. They were "flap" years for that category!

Sometimes a high degree of significance was discovered for a particular category during one or two particular time periods only (either 1800-1976; 1800-1946; or 1947-1976). If any degree of significance were found, even if only in one time period, it was included as a "flap". (See Table 3)

With respect to the monthly analysis, because all the 134 cases could only be fitted into one of 12 months, a more respectable random average should have emerged. Thus, anything above and beyond a 50% deviation from the norm was considered significant. Such deviations were discovered, both by individual category and overall, and were in such cases considered flaps. (See Table 4) It only remained to then plug in the UFO flaps and relationships (or lack of them) became immediately apparent. (See Tables 3 & 4).

Conclusions & Findings:

1) The random averages, with one exception, did not differ significantly from one another regardless whether the entire period was considered, the pre-UFO period was considered or the post-UFO period was considered. Therefore, UFOs (as in introduced added factor) made little difference. The post-UFO period random average increased for sailing ships, light planes, commercial planes and

miscellaneous craft relative to the pre-UFO period. The reverse occurred for motorized vessels and military aircraft.

2) The lone exception with respect to the yearly random averages occurred in the category of military aircraft which overall had a random average of 0.60 cases/year as opposed to 2.00 cases/year in the pre-UFO period and 0.50 cases/year in the post-UFO period. The basic reason was the large number in the first year of the category which was close in time to the dividing line between the pre- and post-UFO era (1945). It must be remembered that 1945 was of course a war year.

3) Particular Bermuda Triangle flaps are interesting of themselves, regardless of any UFO connection. For the most part, I'm at a loss to explain them, in particular the 1909 and 1969 flaps for sailing ships; the 1921 and 1973 flaps for motorized vessels. However, as noted above, the 1945 flap for military planes could be due to WWII. The 1948 flap for commercial aircraft, never repeated, could be due to the fact that civil aviation was still in its infancy in 1948; the aircraft small, ill-equipped; propeller driven; and slow-moving by modern standards. Given that the standard of "search and rescue" in 1948 doesn't come close to the degree of today's sophistication, and that flights involving the Bermuda Triangle were maritime ones, the craft in question travelling fairly isolated air spaces, often in darkness, I attribute no high degree of significance to 1948 being a "flap" year for commercial aircraft. Finally, we have the three "flap" years of 1967, 1969 and 1973 for light aircraft. Considering the rapid ownership in private aircraft over the past decade, and the popularity of the Bermuda Triangle area with all of the Caribbean islands, Florida and Bermuda itself as attractions for the idle rich and/or private businessman, it is not perhaps surprising that the latter 1960s and the 1970s would see an increase in light aircraft disappearances. If the flaps had occurred in say the late 1950s and early 1960s, then one would have more of a problem to consider.

4) In discarding then all but (in the post-UFO era) the 1969 sailing ship flap and the 1973 motorized vessel flap, do these have any correlation with UFO flaps? The answer is "yes", but only for 1973. That in itself is not sufficient reason to say UFOs made off with motorized vessels in 1973. Even if one takes all post-UFO Bermuda Triangle flaps into account, only two years are common to UFO flaps. Those years are 1967 (flap year for light planes and UFOs) and 1973 (flap year for motorized vessels, light planes and UFOs). Perhaps this is ever so slightly suggestive, but two years out of 30 within the post-UFO period, where some correlation exists, does not give one immediate hope to leap up and say "Eureka, the solution to the Bermuda Triangle is proven - UFOs are making off with our boats and aircraft!" Now, what of the monthly correlations?

5) UFO sightings consistently reach a peak in the summer months in the northern hemisphere, in particularly July and August. However, as Hendry points out, this is more due to the fact that possible witnesses are out-of-doors more during that period and thus able to see various aerial phenomena.

Bermuda Triangle incidents, overall, on the other hand, are confined to the northern hemisphere winter months, in terms of number of happenings 50% above and beyond random average. In particular the months of December and January stand out, each with three individual category flaps (sailing ships and light planes common to both months; commercial planes in January; military planes in December). No other month has more than one category flap (February - motorized vessels; March - motorized vessels; April - motorized vessels; July - sailing ships; August - light planes; November - motorized vessels); four months have no category flaps at all (May, June, September and October). UFO monthly flaps (if real and not apparent) are only correlated specifically with sailing ships in July and light aircraft in August. Again that is not enough reason to draw upon a valid relationship between the Bermuda Triangle and UFO phenomena. And of course the suspected reason for Bermuda Triangle flaps in mid-winter months isn't all that hard to reason out. On average, the weather tends to be worse during the winter months, on a consistent year-in, year-out basis. It is only the isolated hurricane during the late summer months that can raise hell within the Bermuda Triangle.

6) In conclusion therefore, there is no statistical reason to suspect that Bermuda Triangle and UFO phenomena are linked. Unless trends change in the years to come, I would doubt that any future correlation will be forthcoming. Hard data will be needed to prove to me anyway that such a Bermuda Triangle /UFO connection is plausible.

Table 1: Bermuda Triangle Statistics for years 1800-1976.

(Note: unlisted years have no reported cases; zero totals.)

| Year | Sailing Ships | Motorized Vessels | Military Planes | Light Planes | Commercial Planes | Miscellan. Craft | Totals |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 1800 | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| 1813 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1814 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1824 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1840 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1854 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1855 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1868 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1872 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1880 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1881 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1884 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1886 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1902 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1908 | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| 1909 | 6 | | | | | | 6 |
| 1910 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1913 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1914 | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| 1915 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 3 |
| 1917 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1918 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1919 | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| 1920 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1921 | 1 | 9 | | | | | 10 |
| 1925 | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1926 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1931 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1932 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1935 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1938 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1940 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1941 | | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| 1942 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1944 | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| 1945 | 2 | | 4 | | | | 6 |
| 1946 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| <u>UFO Era</u> | | | | | | | |
| 1947 | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 1948 | | 3 | | | 2 | | 5 |
| 1949 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 3 |
| 1950 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 3 |
| 1951 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 1952 | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| 1953 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 1954 | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| 1956 | 1 | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| 1958 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1961 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |

(Table 1 continued)

| Year | Sailing Ships | Motorized Vessels | Military Planes | Light Planes | Commercial Planes | Miscellan. Craft | Totals. |
|------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| 1962 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 3 |
| 1963 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 |
| 1965 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 |
| 1966 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1967 | | 1 | | 4 | | | 5 |
| 1968 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 1969 | 6 | | | 3 | | 1 | 10 |
| 1970 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1971 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | 5 |
| 1972 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 1973 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 | | | 9 |
| 1974 | 2 | | | 1 | | | 3 |
| 1975 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 3 |
| 1976 | 1 | | | | | | 1 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----|
| <u>Totals</u> | 53 | 47 | 19 | 18 | 4 | 3 | 144 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Sub- | | | | | | | |
| <u>Totals</u> | | | | | | | |
| Pre- | | | | | | | |
| UFO Era 35 | | 27 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 68 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| Post- | | | | | | | |
| UFO Era 18 | | 20 | 15 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 76 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Random* | | | | | | | |
| <u>Average</u> 0.30 | | 0.70 | 0.60 | 0.40 | 0.14 | 0.25 | - |

*Number of cases divided by the number of elapsed years since the first reported case for each category to give number of cases per year.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Pre-** | | | | | | | |
| UFO Era 0.24 | | 0.73 | 2.00 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Post-*** | | | | | | | |
| UFO Era 0.60 | | 0.67 | 0.50 | 0.53 | 0.14 | 0.25 | - |

**Number of cases through 1946 divided by the number of years that have elapsed since the first reported case prior to 1946, gives cases/year

*** Number of cases, from 1947 through 1976, divided by the number of years that have elapsed since the first reported case prior to 1976, yields cases per year. With two exceptions, that number is 30 years.

Note: Any raw numerical figure, which equals at least five times the expected average, could be considered significant, when rounded up to the next higher number plus one.

Table 2: Bermuda Triangle Statistics by Month.

| Month | Sailing Ships | Motorized Vessels | Military Planes | Light Planes | Commercial Planes | Miscellan. Craft | Totals |
|--------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Jan. | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 19 |
| Feb. | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| March | 2 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| April | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| May | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| June | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| July | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Aug. | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Sept. | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Oct. | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Nov. | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Dec. | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Totals | 46 | 44 | 19 | 18 | 4 | 3 | 134 |

Random*

Average 3.83 3.67 1.58 1.50 0.33 0.25 11.17

*Number of cases divided by 12, the number of months, which yields the average number of cases per month. Actual numbers greater than 50% of the expected average could be considered significant.

Table 3: Overall Bermuda Triangle and UFO Flaps-Yearly.

| Year | Sailing Ships | Motorized Vessels | Military Planes | Light Planes | Commercial Planes | Miscellan. Craft | UFOs |
|------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|------|
| 1909 | xxx | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1921 | none | xxx | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1945 | none | none | xxx | none | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| 1948 | none | none | none | none | xxx | n/a | none |
| 1952 | none | none | none | none | none | n/a | xxx |
| 1957 | none | none | none | none | none | n/a | xxx |
| 1965 | none | none | none | none | none | none | xxx |
| 1966 | none | none | none | none | none | none | xxx |
| 1967 | none | none | none | xxx | none | none | xxx |
| 1969 | xxx | none | none | xxx | none | none | none |
| 1973 | none | xxx | none | xxx | none | none | xxx |

Note: (xxx) means "flap year" - (n/a) means "not applicable" in terms of the data
(none) means "no flap" even though data is applicable.

Table 4: Overall Bermuda Triangle and UFO Flaps - Monthly.

| Month | Sailing Ships | Motorized Vessels | Military Planes | Light Planes | Commercial Planes | Misc. Craft | Totals | UFOs |
|-------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|------|
| Jan. | xxx | none | none | xxx | xxx | none | xxx | none |
| Feb | none | xxx | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| March | none | xxx | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| April | none | xxx | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| May | none | none | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| June | none | none | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| July | xxx | none | none | none | none | none | none | xxx |
| Aug. | none | none | none | xxx | none | none | none | xxx |
| Sept. | none | none | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| Oct. | none | none | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| Nov. | none | xxx | none | none | none | none | none | none |
| Dec. | xxx | none | xxx | xxx | none | none | xxx | none |

Note: (xxx) means a "flap" month (none) means a "non-flap" month.

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Deficiencies in the Hypnopompic-Hypnagogic Model to Explain UFO Experiences at Close Range.

by V. J. Ballester Olmos,
Valencia, Spain (1)

Students of UFO phenomena should receive with the utmost attention, any reasonably-presented theory towards the explanation of the UFO enigma. Alternative hypotheses to the ETH should be put forward as a means to evaluate the comparative weight of the extraterrestrial vehicle model. Valuable theories will always follow Occam's Razor, as well as a scholar, orthodox science approach, no matter how advanced the conclusions may be. I did welcome Keith Basterfield's paper in the first issue of THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES (2) as an example of serious presentation; nevertheless, a careful reading of his arguments made me think that something was missing.

The purpose of this note is simply to list a few problems posed by the hypnopompic-hypnagogic hypothesis, with the intention that it serves as a basis for further discussion and research.

These are the deficiencies that arise from the mentioned paper, from my viewpoint:

- 1) It "explains" only but a part of the UFO experiences. If a theory is unable to cope with the whole range of the UFO phenomenology, I believe it is unsatisfactory, by definition.
- 2) It does not solve the events of shared experiences: those cases of multiple corroborating witnesses, not those comprising geographically independent observers.
- 3) It leaves aside reports of electromagnetic effects, animal reactions etc.

- 4) Cases elected as examples show an abnormally high percentage of feminine witnesses. Sex distribution of all catalogues of UFO observations point an absolute superiority of men over women. I feel it has been introduced a dangerous bias in the selection of "representative" sightings, one which may nullify the validity of the hypothesis.
- 5) I am not sure that incidents taken as sample for the development of the hypnopompic-hypnogogic model come from the best available sources, I mean, are those reports relevant by their reliability?
- 6) Hypnopompic and hypnogogic visions may place usually with closed eyes or in a dark environment (room without any light). This does not correspond with the many events that occur during daylight (daytime and periods of not complete darkness).
- 7) No precise correlation has been established between the typical images of UFO observation and those produced on the minds of the subjects on the mentioned trances. It seems that resemblance is higher with hallucinations than with real UFO events.
- 8) Apparently, the witness of the UFO vision should feel tiredness at the time of the pseudosighting. This is not proved, and in principle, does not seem to be evident, in the UFO record. However, if the inference is correct, this aspect should be studied in detail by analyzing what were UFO witnesses doing at the time of the experience. UFO data banks should be retrieved!

Notes & References:

1. The author has a large research bibliography on the UFO subject, including Type I Phenomena in Spain and Portugal (with Jacques Vallée), "Flying Saucer Review" Special Issue No. 4, August 1971, 40-64; A catalogue of 200 Type-I UFO Events in Spain and Portugal, CUFOS Technical Report, Evanston, Illinois, 1976; UFOs: The landing Phenomenon, a book published in Spanish in 1978 devoted to the study of close encounters in the Iberian Peninsula.
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Megalithic Marvels

by David A. J. Seargent.

To many a romantic, the mysterious standing stones and circles which dot the English landscape seem to speak in silent voices of some strange and exotic past when people possessed wisdom which has, somehow, become lost with the advance of what we like to call "civilization".

For the researcher of strange phenomenon, on the other hand, such romance must not be taken too seriously unless there is some sound and concrete evidence which bridges the tales of romance and the facts of reality. Is there, in other words, some "magic" in these ancient works or is the whole corpus of story and legend surrounding them merely a collection of "old wives yarns" and entertaining tales told over a pot of ale in some isolated old-world inn?

If anecdotes are to count as evidence, there is certainly no lack of support for the romantics. Thus, it is said to be an old superstition that if a person in ill health stands on one of these spots or near a standing stone, his condition will improve and that if a weary traveller rests against one, he will be refreshed much more quickly than he would normally expect. Also, other people have claimed to "feel telepathic" at these sites and dowzers claim they have found the standing stones to mark the locations of underground springs of water and that both standing stones and stone circles actually amplify the tiny electromagnetic field, caused by water percolating through the sub-soil, to which dowzers are believed to be especially sensitive.

Now, much of this could be dismissed by the sceptic as fable and auto-suggestion, but the testimony of the dowzers provides a possible opening for hard-nosed science to test the reality, or otherwise, of at least some of the romance.

Thus, if the ability of the dowzers really relies upon small electromagnetic anomalies caused by percolating water, and if this tiny field is actually magnified by megalithic stones and circles, such a field should be detectable by the sensitive equipment used by today's scientists. And, indeed, it is! Sensitive magnetometers (operated by Professor John Taylor of King's College London and other reputable scientists) have actually reported the presence of a small magnetic anomaly surrounding such sites. Furthermore, again in agreement with the testimony of the dowzers, these anomalies were found to increase along the vertical axis of the standing stones.

This discovery, however, does more than vindicate the dowzers. It may also provide a mechanism whereby many of the exotic properties of these megalithic marvels operate. For instance, it is now known that the human body possesses its own weak magnetic field and electric field. It is possible that the magnetic field of the human organism itself enhanced by the presence of the standing stone or stone circle and it is also possible that both the biological magnetic field and the local magnetic anomaly are somehow brought into "harmony" in such a way that the magnetic field of the person is, effectively, increased?

Now, if there is any truth at all in this speculation, it may explain how these stone formations may act as telepathy intensifiers. Thus, according to research performed by Professor Persinger in Canada, mental telepathy is carried by electromagnetic waves of extremely long frequency, and it is probable that sensitivity to these waves (telepathic ability) would be enhanced if this biological magnetic field was enhanced.

As for the alleged healing properties of Megalithic sites, we may speculate (but this is only speculation at this stage) that the biological electric field may also be enhanced and, during times of full moon when the biological electric field is at its maximum positive value, this could result in an abnormally large influx of negative ions to the person's immediate environment. As anyone who has read about (or used) an ion generator will know, these ions have a vitalizing, and (it is claimed) a beneficial, effect upon people's health. (Only problem here is that the biological electric field is negative at new moon and would attract positive ions at these times, resulting in moods of depression and the like. The stones would only be beneficial at full moon).

What we are to make of UFO sightings around Megalithic sites is another issue. Is it possible that these objects (whatever they may be) are somehow attracted to the small magnetic anomalies of the Megalithic sites? Or is there any real increase in the frequency of sightings at Megalithic sites? These are questions which, like the UFOs themselves, are very much up in the air.

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UFO NETWORK, 2 St Ivian Crt, Colneyhatch Lane, London N10. England.

UCUFOS Bibliography Service: Astro-Archaeology.

by John Prytz.

Compiler's Note: Ufologists, with few exceptions, are interested in the degree of astronomical knowledge possessed by ancient societies. Should data ever reveal ancient astronomical knowledge greater than that thought possible by those societies, as attributed to them by archaeologists, that would strengthen the argument for the terrestrial presence of "ancient astronauts", hence UFOs as an extraterrestrial phenomena. One of course should review literature by those who are competent, through training and/or research, in putting forth scientifically solid discussions on astro-archaeology, as opposed to uncritical popular authors with axes to grind and dollar signs in their eyes. This bibliography provides such an introductory data base of a non-technical nature, but it is a fraction of the available material on this fascinating subject.

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AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. REPORTS:

SA80C07 0010 Blanchetown 12-2-80 UFO Research (SA) NL

a 23 year old man reports the vehicle he was driving was followed for quite some time by unusual lights. These lights were seen both while the vehicle was in motion and when it was stationary. Investigation reveals alternate conventional explanations for what might be regarded as a low strangeness case.

QB80012 1945 Babinda 26-4-80 UFO Research (FNQ) CE1

The witness and his brothers were at their mother's house, when one of the brothers looked out the front window to notice an object to the west of the house, hovering about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. He called his brothers to look at it. It was described as oval, with curved "wings" on each side. Colour was reported as being silver, which dimmed and brightened as the object retreated and returned. Sometimes it was described as so bright "it was hard to look at." One of the brothers also reported a red light at the top & bottom, and a yellow light in the centre, and he also heard a humming noise. Over a period of 1 hour, the object moved from a stationary position over a gully off to the west and then returned to hover over the gully again. When over the gully, the object played a yellowish/white beam over the ground. It also seemed to spin on its horizontal axis before it retreated into the distance.

TA80045 0210 Mountain Creek 6-7-80 TUFOIC CE2

Two witnesses were in a Landcruiser travelling for some shooting. The night was breezy with some cloud. While one alighted from the vehicle to shoot, the driver noticed a light at ground level to the NE, being partially obscured by some tea tree. At first they thought it could be some other shooters, however a closer look showed them they were in fact lights, white at each side and flickering red in the middle. A green-yellowish phosphorous type of glow below which illuminated a long body above, estimated at about 8 metres long and 2 metres high. There was a deep whirring noise like an electric motor. After 5 shots were fired at the object, it moved slowly away towards the NE just above the ground still rotating and whirring. It glided up and over low ridges on the marsh, then suddenly appeared at great speed and shot vertically into the night sky. in a second it had dwindled to a dot and disappeared. Some seconds after the object had gone, the dog jumped in through the window, its hair on end and looking distressed.